AMALGAM COMICS

THORION OF THE NEW GODS

#1

DIRECT EDITION

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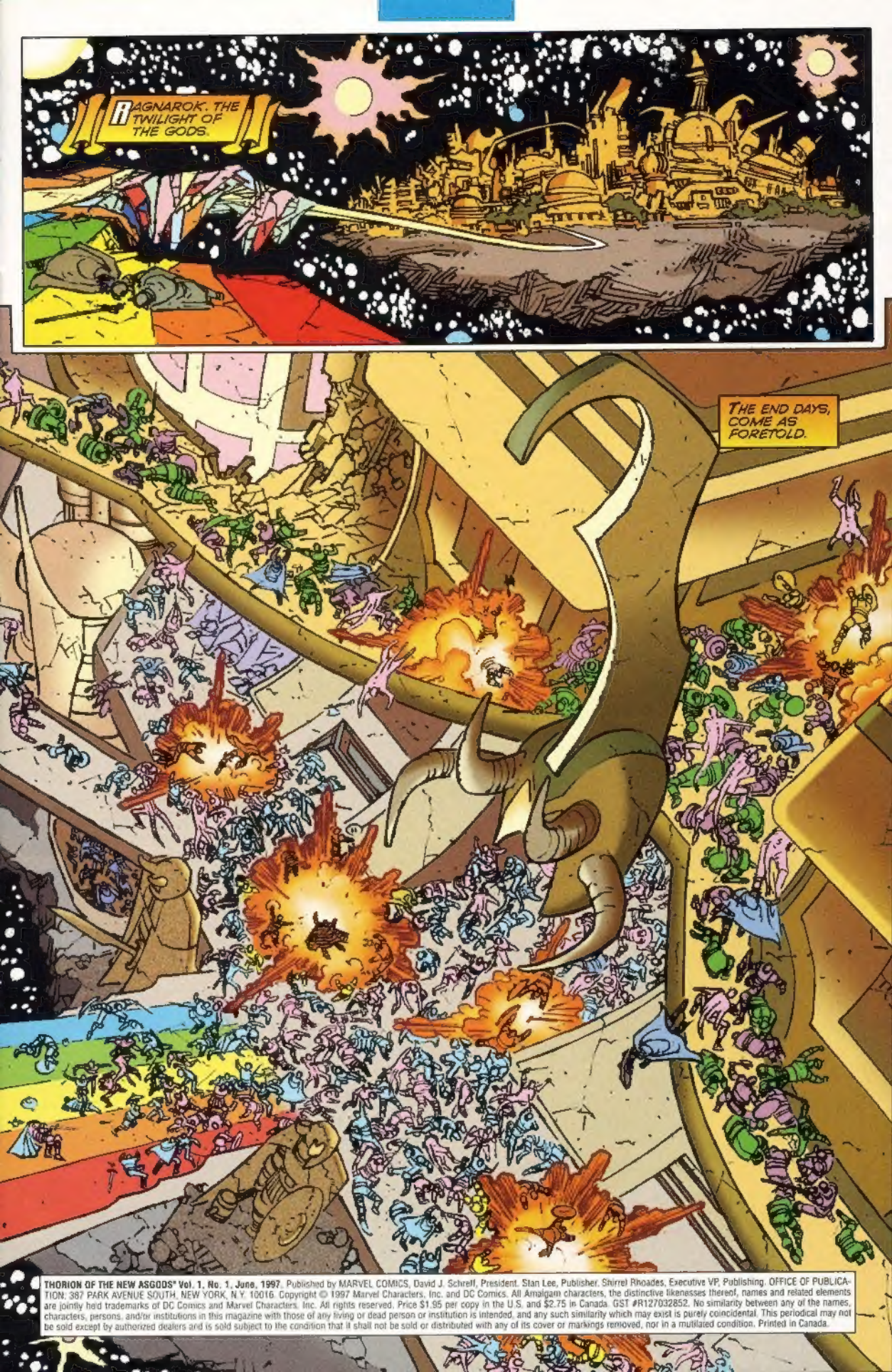

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THE FINAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE GODS AND THE FORCES OF EVIL.
JUDGMENT WRIT IN THUNDER AND BLOOD.

THE PALACE ROYAL IS *OURS!*
PRESS ON! ON THIS DAY, ASGARD *FALLS!*
TO THE ODIN CHAMBER!

STEADY THE RAM!
TO THE TROLLS, THE HONOR OF *SLAYING* ODIN ONE-EYE!

WHRAKKTT
THE PORTAL IS BREACHED!
NO QUARTER!

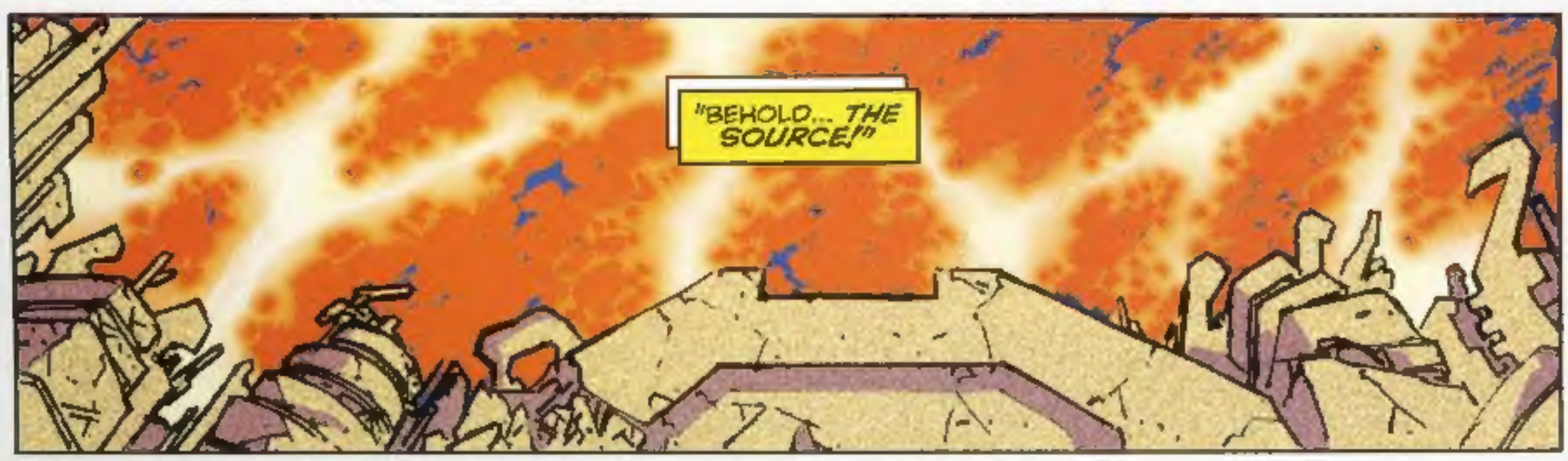
STRIKE HIM DOWN! LET LOOSE THE MIDGARD SERPENT!
THE DAY IS COME! NOT EVEN THE HIGHFATHER CAN STAND AGAINST THE *END* OF *ALL!*

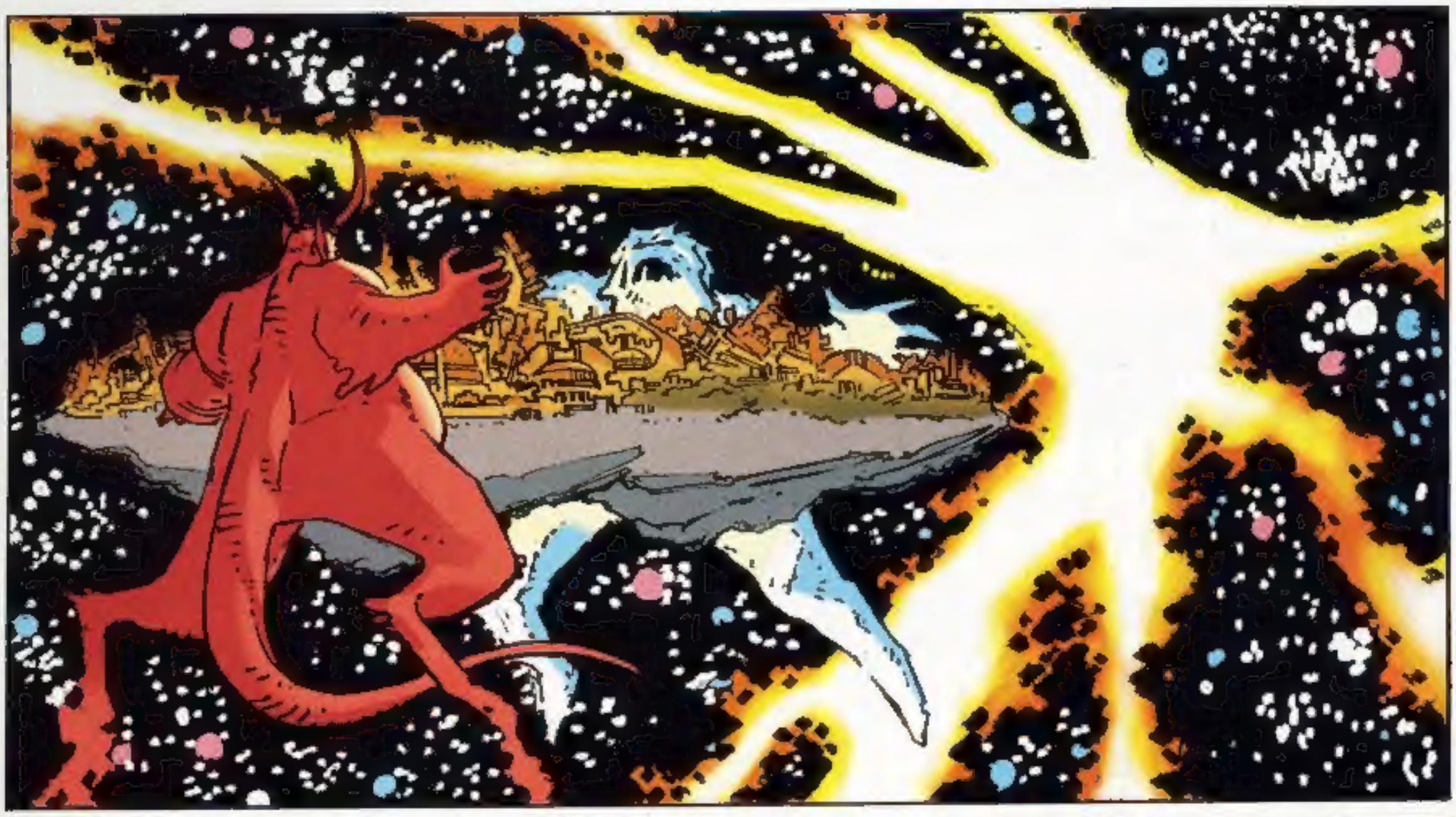
DID YOU THINK TO FIND ODIN ILL-PREPARED FOR THIS DAY? IS ODIN NOT ALSO CALLED THE "ALL-WISE"?
THERE IS NO PREPARATION FOR THIS DAY!
THERE IS ONLY DEATH!

DEATH TO ODIN ONE-EYE!
THE END OF ALL!

NOT SO! KNOW YOU THIS...

...ON THIS DAY HAS ODIN STRUCK A LONG-BARGAINED-FOR ALLIANCE!
THIS DAY WILL BRING NOT AN ENDING, BUT A NEW BEGINNING!
BEHOLD!


"BEHOLD... THE SOURCE!"

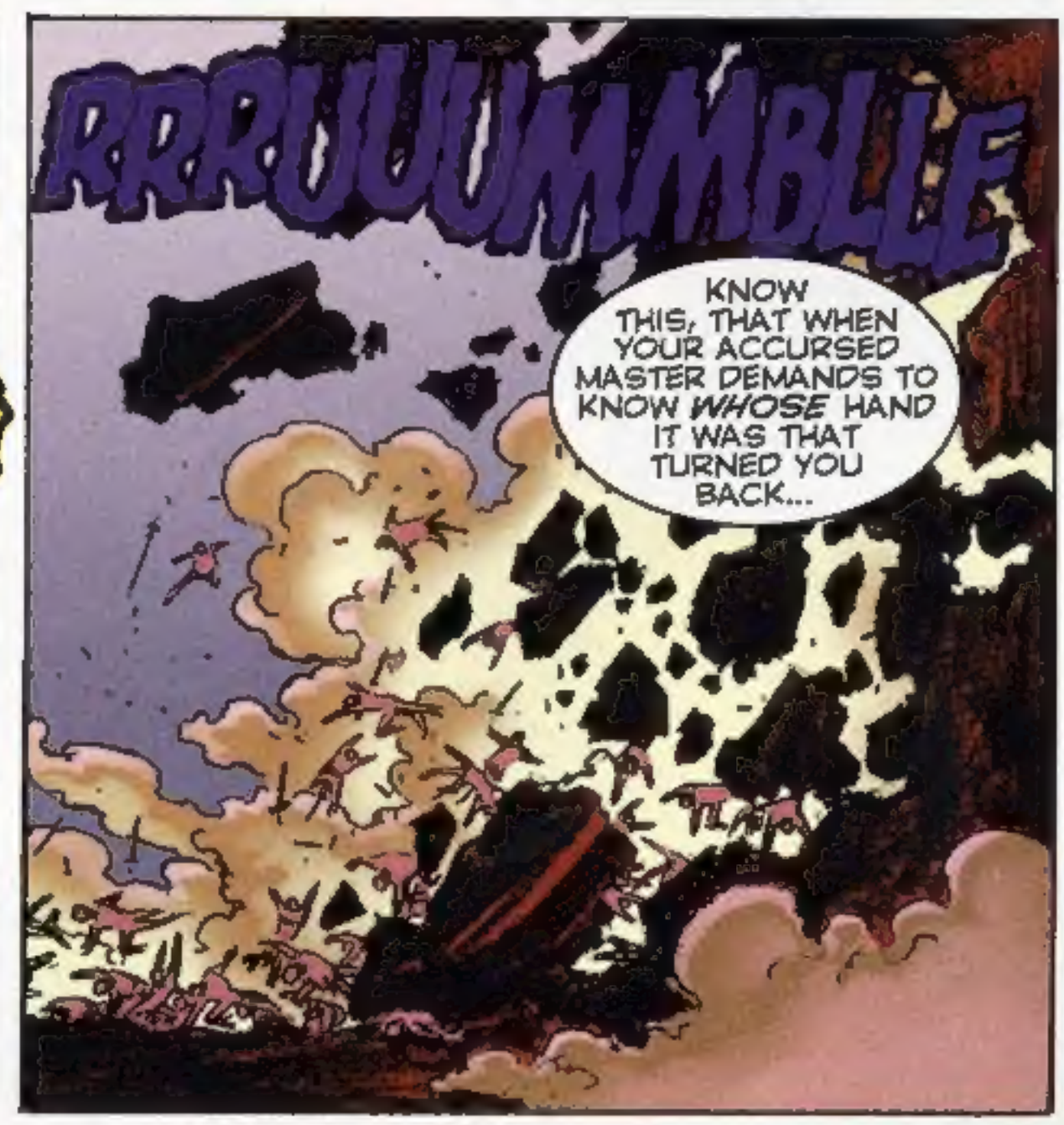


THERE CAME A TIME WHEN THE OLD GODS... CHANGED.

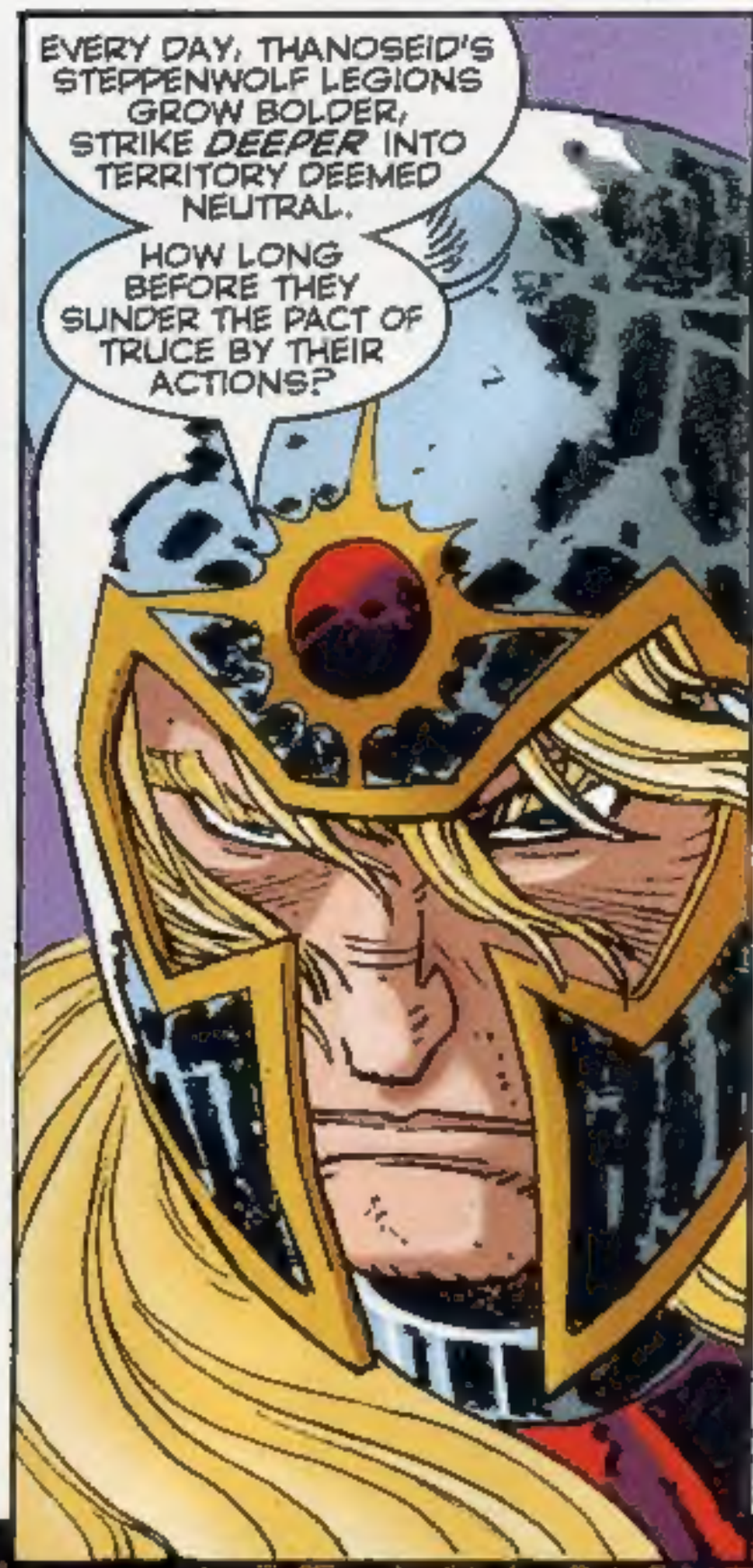
THE BLASTED LANDS. YEAR ONE OF THE NEW ORDER.

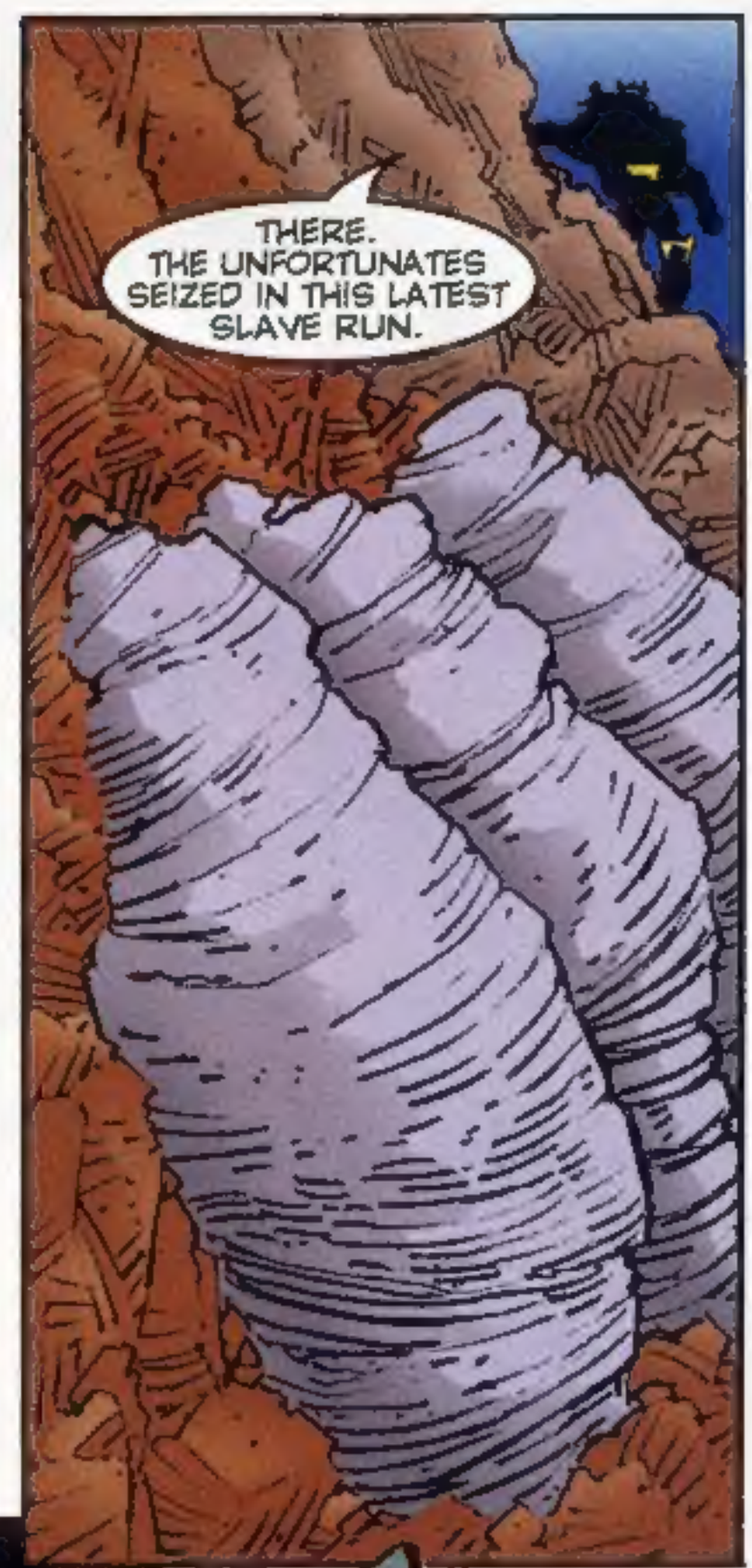
KNOW ME, MINIONS OF THE DARK LORD! I AM THE RESURRECTED ONE! THE LIGHT THAT FEARS NO DARKNESS!

CHOF CHOF CHOF CHOF



...TELL HIM IT WAS --
-- THORION
THE HUNTER!
A KEITH GIFFEN & JOHN ROMITA Jr. PRODUCTION
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
INKS & SEPS
DAN BROWN
COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF
LETTERS
TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR
GLENN GREENBERG
ASSISTANT EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF
MARK GRUENWALD
THE SOURCE

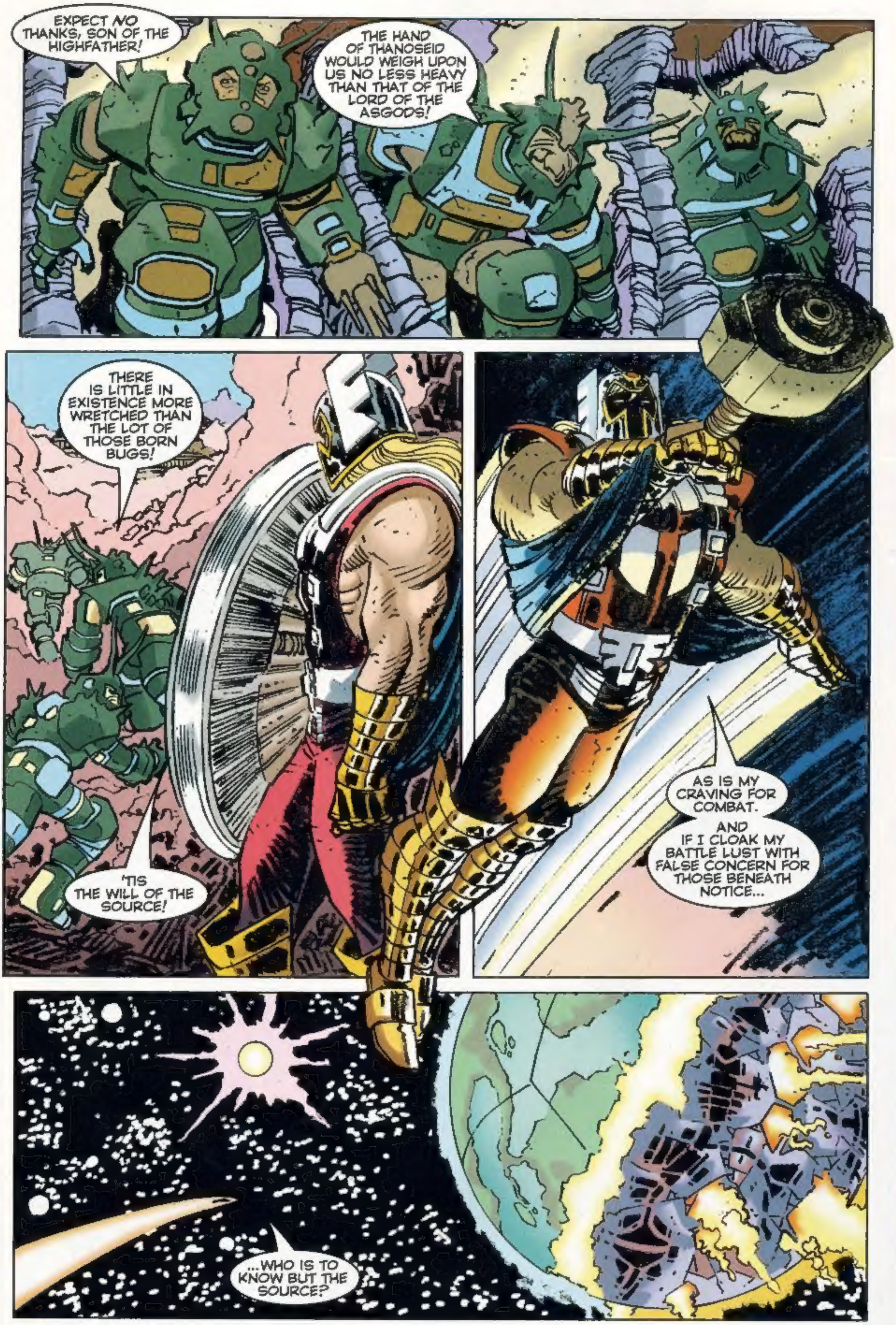




LET THE POWER OF THE ASTRO-FORCE FREE THEM FROM THE BONDAGE COCOONS.

SSSHHKKT

THANOSEID'S DARK APPETITE WILL GO UNSATED THIS DAY.


EXPECT NO THANKS, SON OF THE HIGHFATHER!
THE HAND OF THANOSEID WOULD WEIGH UPON US NO LESS HEAVY THAN THAT OF THE LORD OF THE ASGODS!
THERE IS LITTLE IN EXISTENCE MORE WRETCHED THAN THE LOT OF THOSE BORN BUGS!
'TIS THE WILL OF THE SOURCE!
AS IS MY CRAVING FOR COMBAT.
AND IF I CLOAK MY BATTLE LUST WITH FALSE CONCERN FOR THOSE BENEATH NOTICE...
...WHO IS TO KNOW BUT THE SOURCE?

DOES THE DESIRE *STILL* BURN WITHIN YOU, L'OK D'SAAD? WOULD YOU YET STRIKE AT YOUR HALF-BROTHER AND, IN SO DOING, DOOM US ALL?

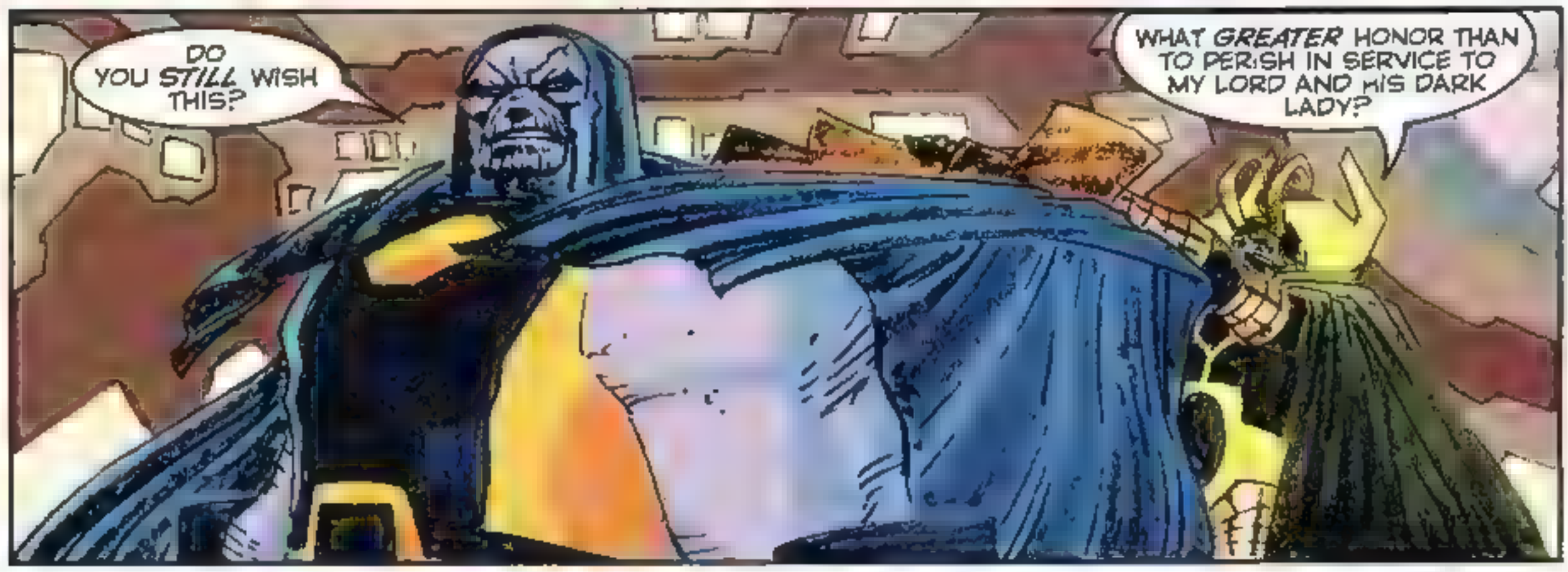
AT YOUR COMMAND, MY LIEGE. MY *LIFE* FOR YOU!

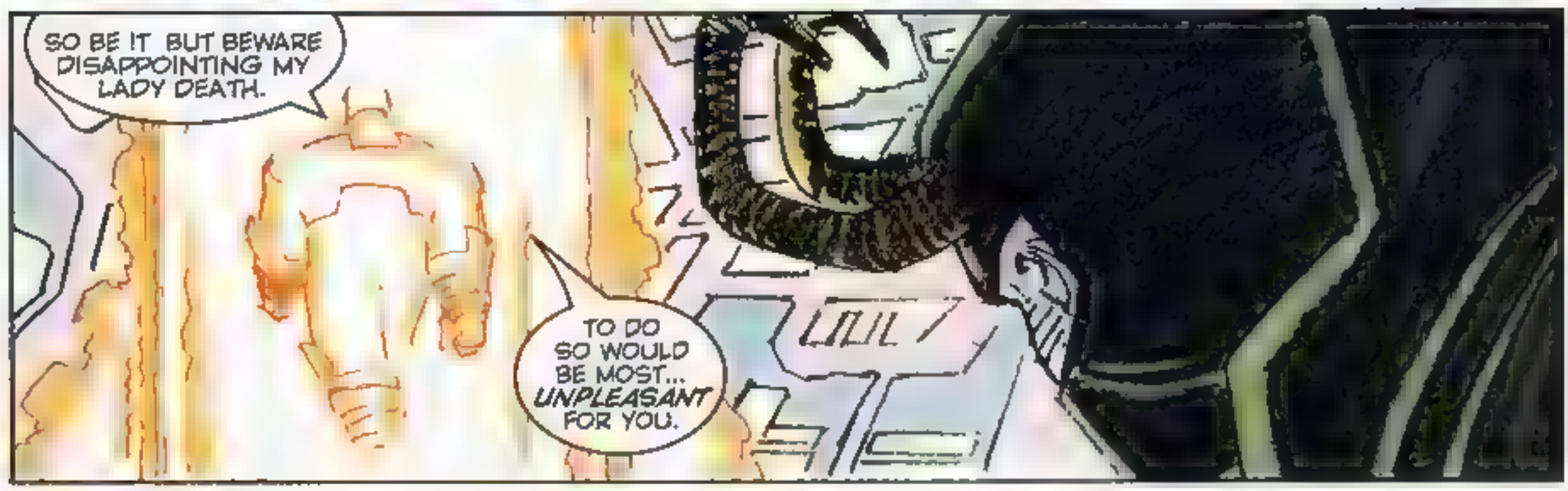
THAT IS A GIVEN.

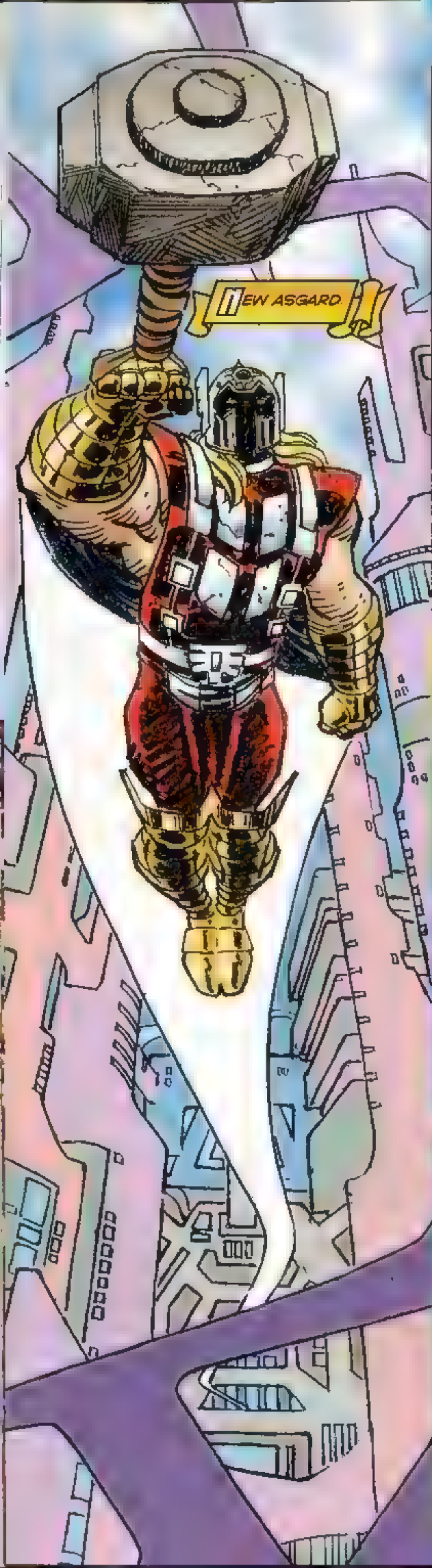
WHAT WOULD YOU REQUIRE OF ME TO SET THESE EVENTS IN MOTION?

THE CUBE THE POWER OF THE CUBE!

BE AWARE! NONE, NOT EVEN THANOSEID, CAN WIELD THE FULL POWER OF THE MOTHER CUBE WITHOUT THAT POWER CONSUMING THEM



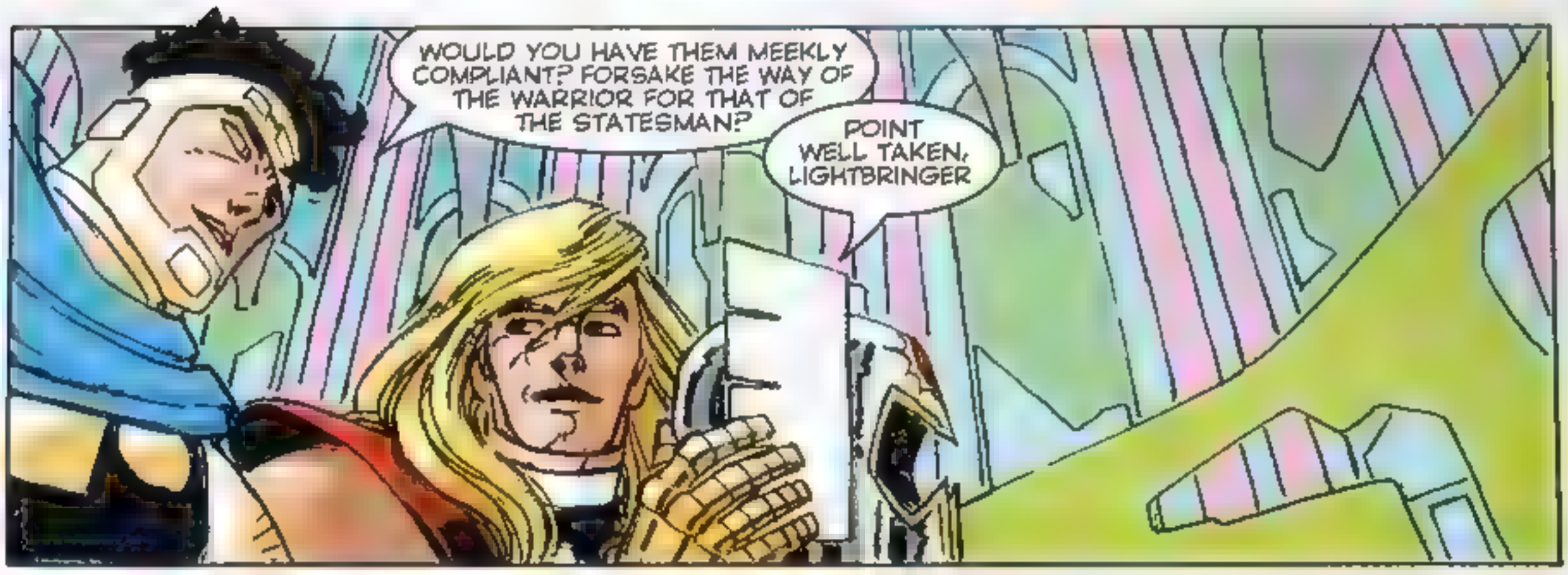


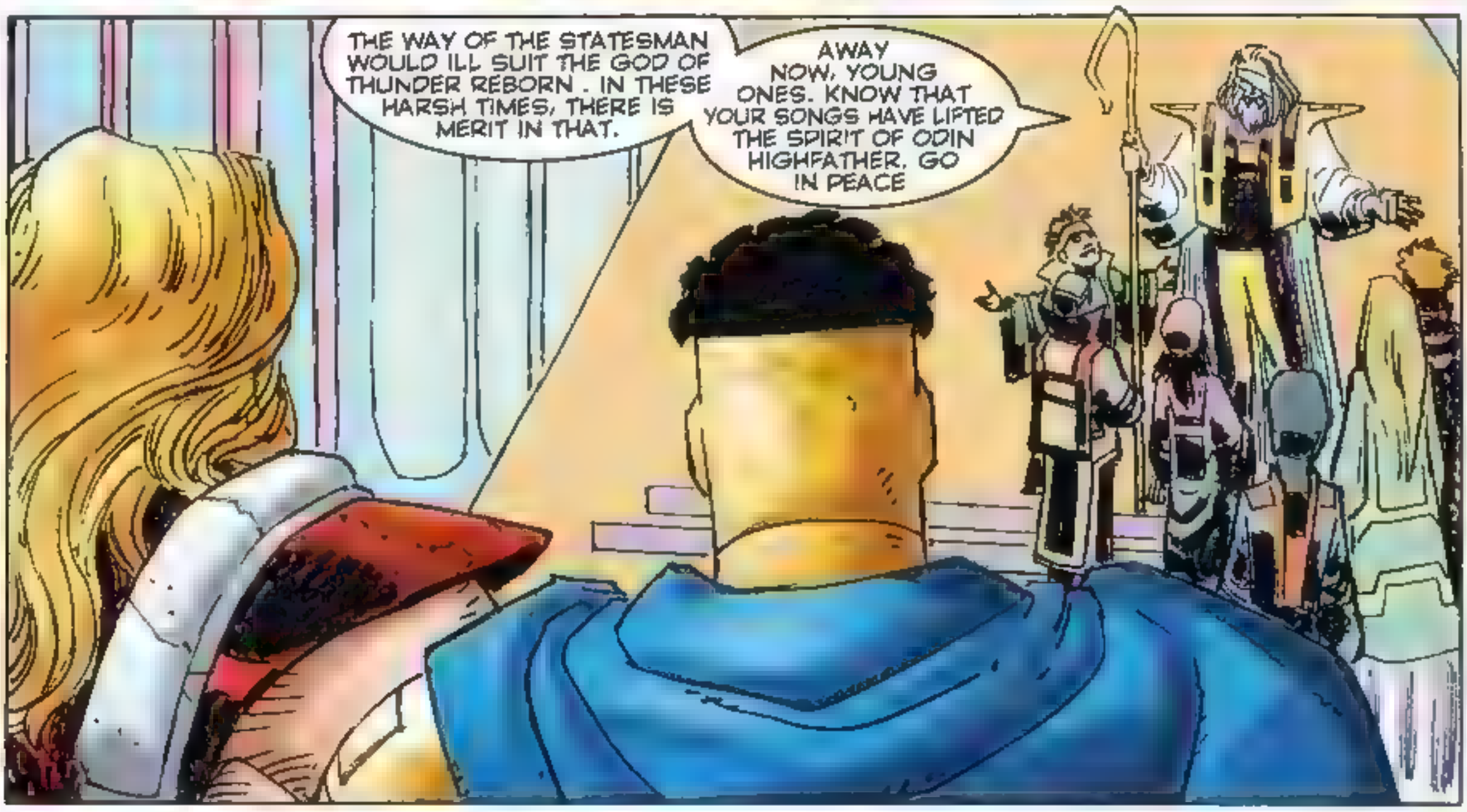

NEW ASGARD

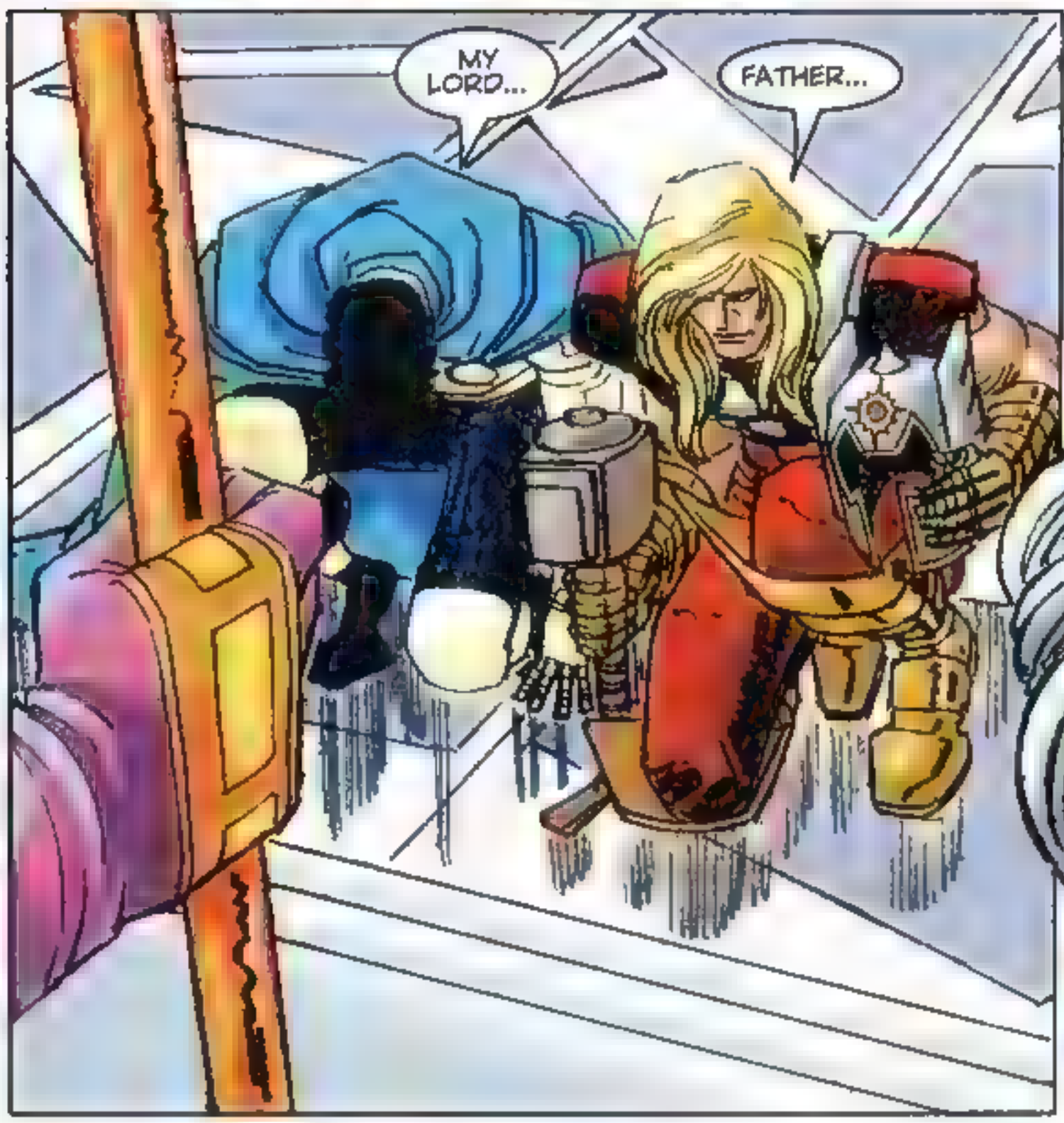
HAIL, THORION! ANOTHER SLAVE RUN BY THE STEPPENWOLF TROLLS PUT TO ROUT!
HAIL, FRIEND BALD'R!

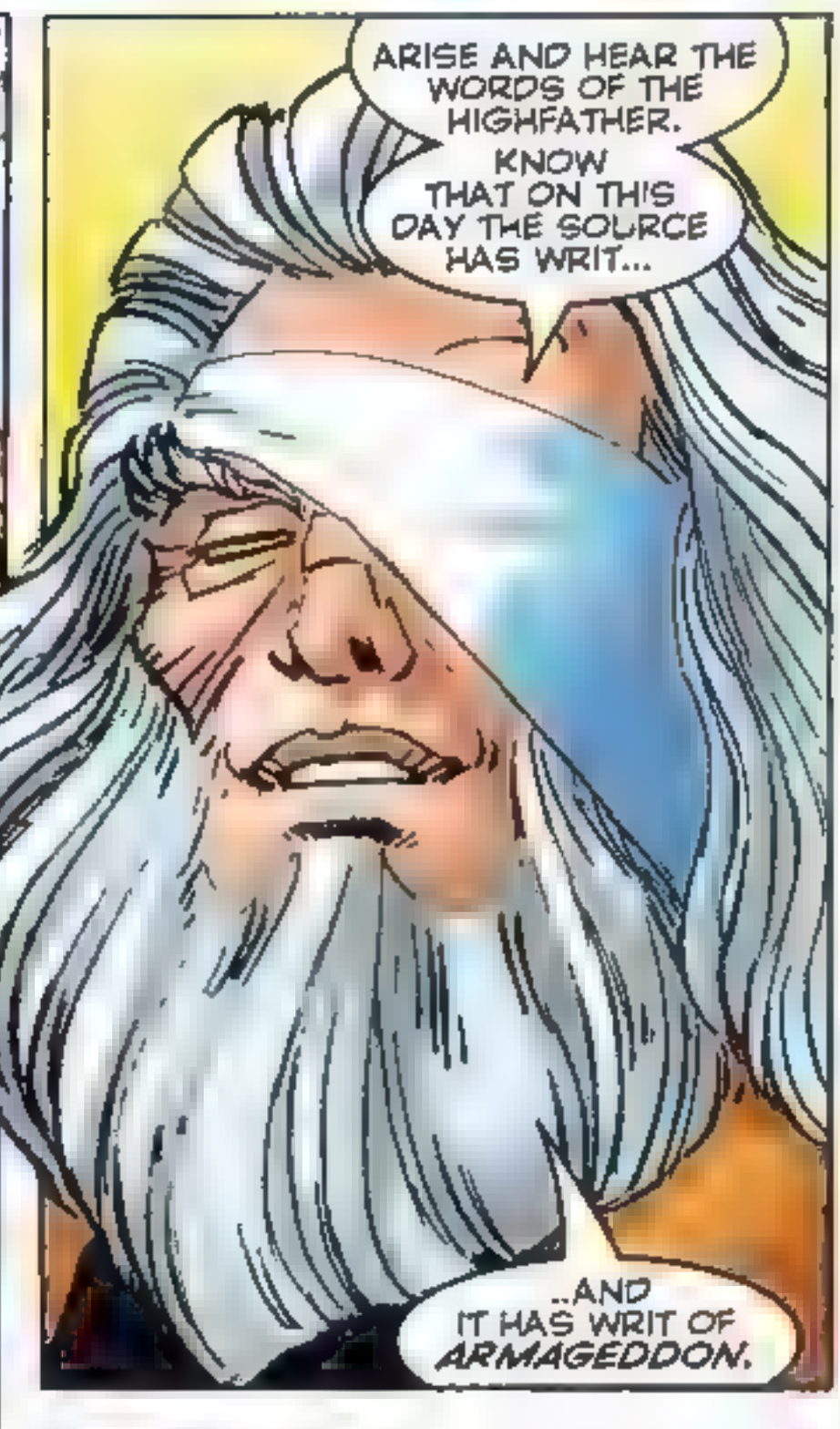
I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT IT *BAD* NEWS WHICH TRAVELED FAST...
YOU HAVE *EVER* BEEN THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE...
SIGH.. SUCH IS TRUE.

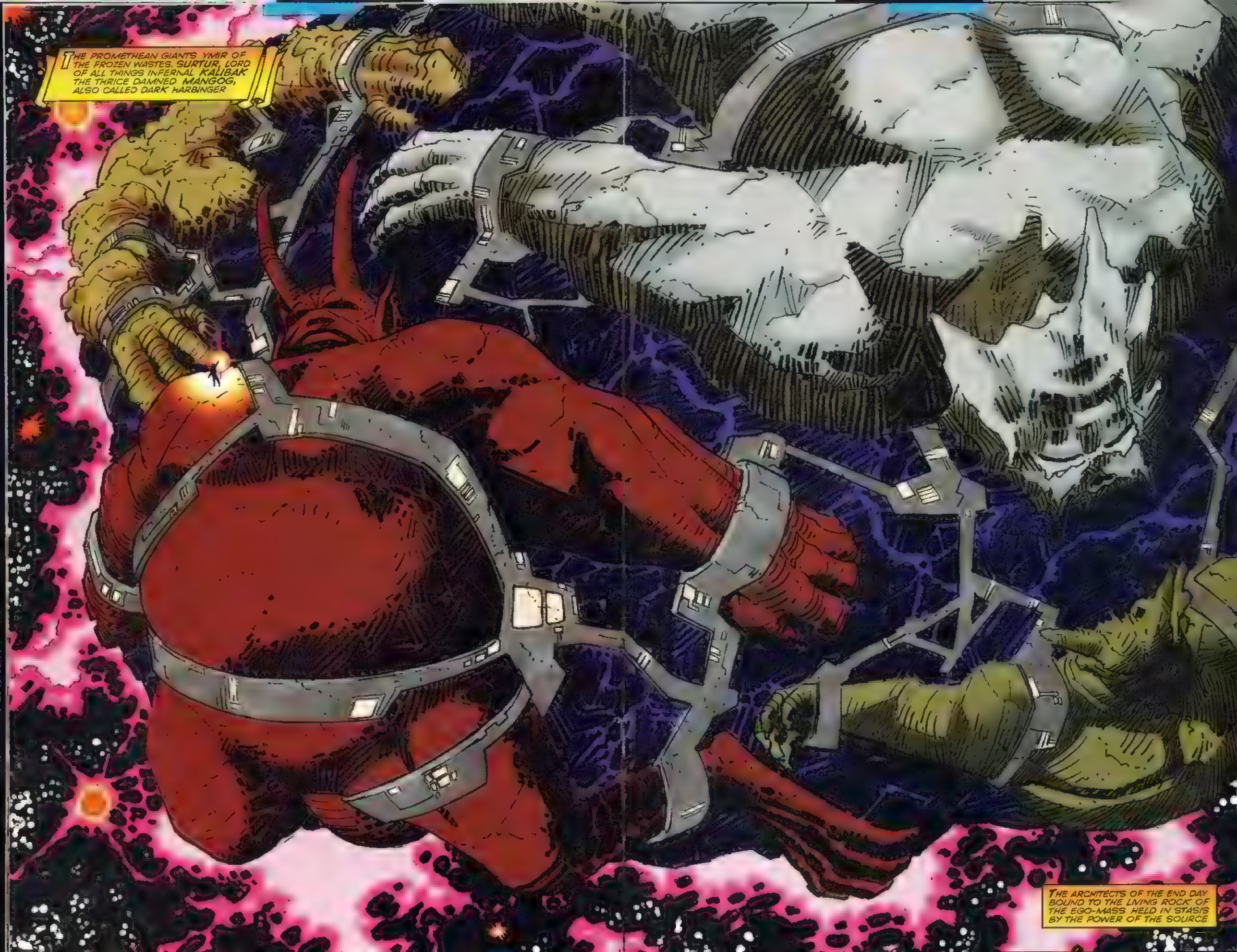
THIS WAS THE CLOSEST TO THE REALM ETERNAL THAT THE DARK ONE'S MINIONS HAVE EVER DARED FORAGE.
THE MERE RATTLING OF SABERS THE TRUCE YET HOLDS.
THEY *FORGET* THEIR PLACE!


WOULD YOU HAVE THEM MEEKLY COMPLIANT? FORSAKE THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR FOR THAT OF THE STATESMAN?
POINT WELL TAKEN, LIGHTBRINGER


THE WAY OF THE STATESMAN WOULD ILL SUIT THE GOD OF THUNDER REBORN . IN THESE HARSH TIMES, THERE IS MERIT IN THAT.
AWAY NOW, YOUNG ONES. KNOW THAT YOUR SONGS HAVE LIFTED THE SPIRIT OF ODIN HIGHFATHER. GO IN PEACE


MY LORD...
FATHER...

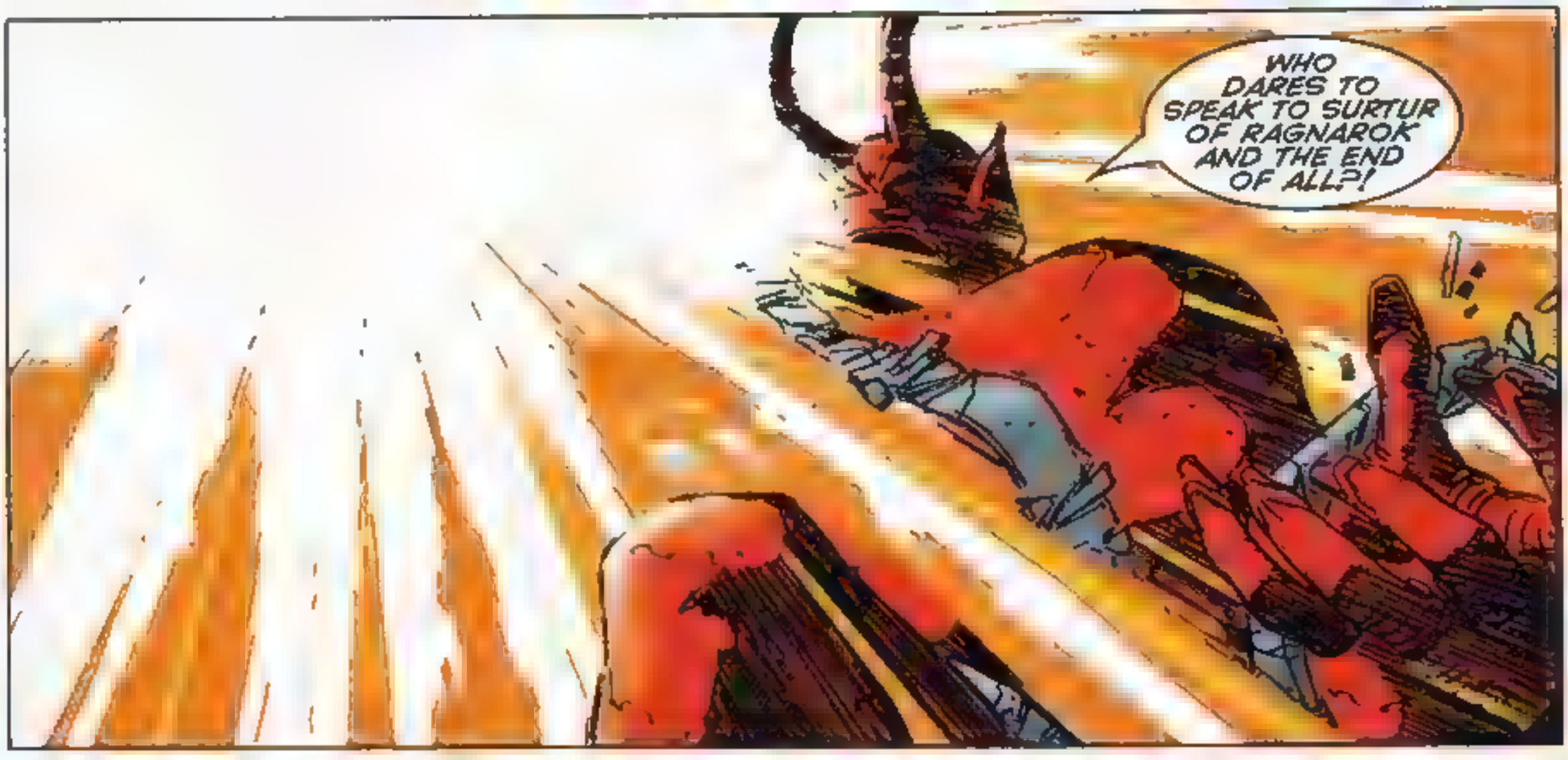

ARISE AND HEAR THE WORDS OF THE HIGHFATHER. KNOW THAT ON THIS DAY THE SOURCE HAS WRIT...
..AND IT HAS WRIT OF ARMAGEDDON.


THE PROMETHEAN GIANTS YMIR OF THE FROZEN WASTES, SURTUR, LORD OF ALL THINGS INFERNAL KALIBAK THE THRICE DAMNED, MANGOG, ALSO CALLED DARK HARBINGER
THE ARCHITECTS OF THE END DAY BOUND TO THE LIVING ROCK OF THE EGO-MASS HELD IN STASIS BY THE POWER OF THE SOURCE

BY THE POWER OF THE MOTHER CUBE DO I FINISH THAT ONCE BEGUN! *RAGNAROK!* THE END OF *ALL!*
COME TO ME, CURSED HALF-BROTHER!
SEE THE POWER THAT IS L'OK DESAAD'S TO COMMAND! BEAR WITNESS TO MY ULTIMATE TRIUMPH!
THORION HAS COME.
THE SICKNESS IN YOUR SOUL, IT DRIVES YOU TO *THIS?*
TEMPER YOUR WORDS WITH RESPECT! *MINE* IS THE HAND THAT WIELDS THE INFINITY ESSENCE!
THUS YOU WOULD DESTROY US ALL. MY TRUE FATHER HAS TAUGHT YOU WELL.

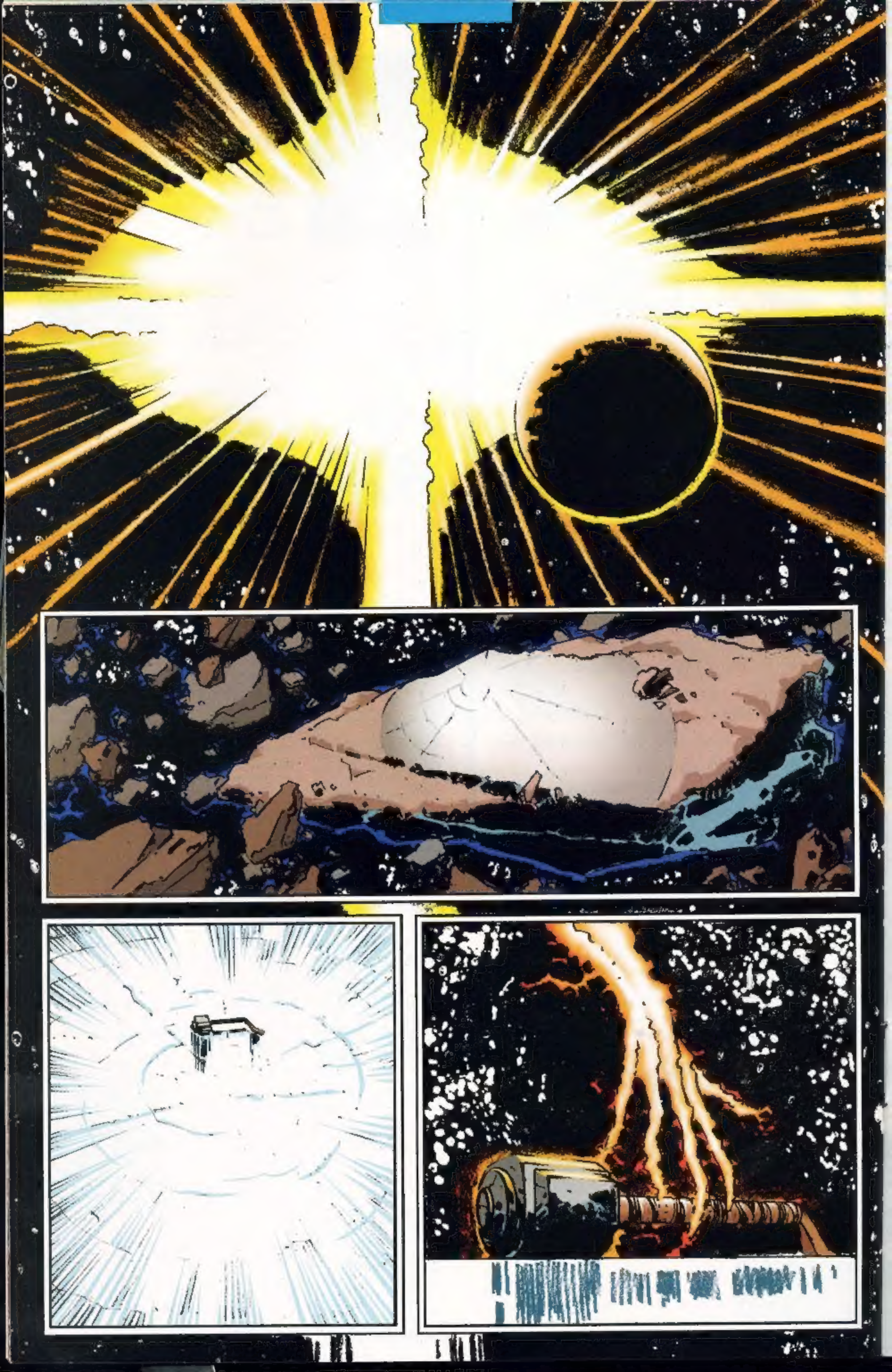
ANY LESSON LEARNED WAS TAUGHT BY THE HIGHFATHER WHEN HE *BARTERED* L'OK, THE SON OF HIS BLOOD, TO THANOS'D IN RETURN FOR THE HAMMER OF THE OLD GODS WITH WHICH HE RESURRECTED ORION!*
NOT SO THE BARTER WAS MADE TO SEAL THE PACT THAT MAINTAINS THE TRUCE BETWEEN APOKALYPSE AND NEW ASGARD...
I WILL HEAR *NO MORE!* BY THE POWER OF THE MOTHER CUBE DO I STRIKE AT THE HEART OF MY TORMENT!
LET THE SLEEPING ONES AWAKE!

...WHO DARES..?
WHO DARES PETITION SURTUR'S WRATH..?

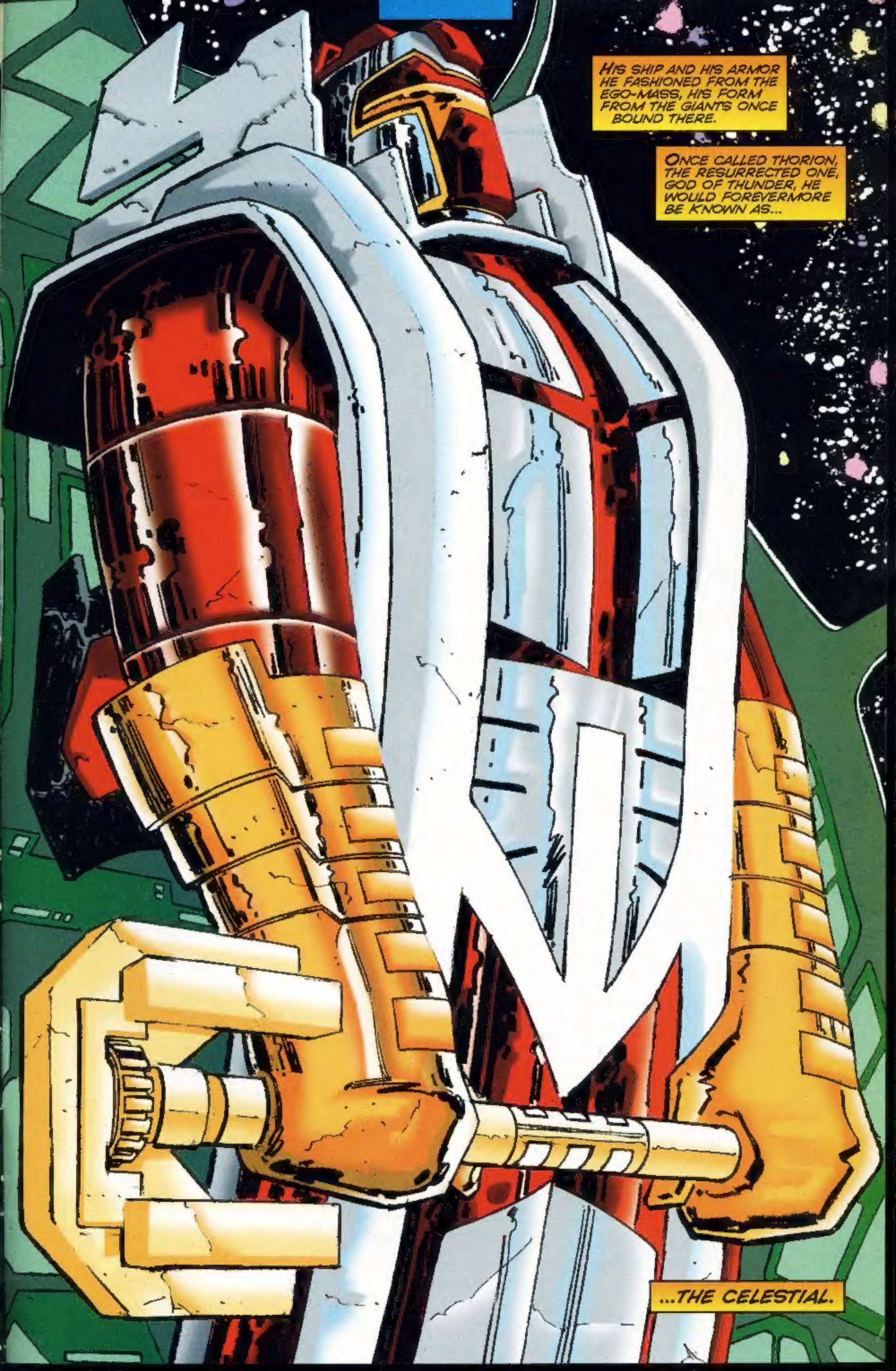

WHO DARES TO SPEAK TO SURTUR OF RAGNAROK AND THE END OF ALL?!

NO! THE END WILL NOT COME THIS DAY! NOT WHILE THORION STILL DRAWS BREATH!
NOT WHILE THE POWER OF THE ASTRO-FORCE CAN YET CONTAIN THESE DARK ENERGIES!

BY THE POWER THAT IS MINE BY BIRTHRIGHT...
...LET THERE BE A PURGING!



EPILOGUE
THERE WERE THOSE WHO HONORED HIS SACRIFICE...
THERE WAS NO LONGER A FIT PLACE FOR HIM IN ALL THE TWIN REALMS. NOT IN SEETHING APOKALYPSE, NOR IN GLEAMING NEW ASGARD.
BOTH WERE DENIED HIM.
...THOSE WHO CURSED IT...
...THOSE WHO MOURNED IT...
...AND THOSE WHO MADE OF IT THE STUFF OF LEGEND.
THE ENERGIES RELEASED THAT DAY LIT THE FIRMAMENT SURROUNDING THE TWIN REALMS FOR DAYS AFTER.
WITHIN THAT CORUSCATING MASS, HE WAS BORN ANEW. THE COMBINED ENERGIES OF THE INFINITY ESSENCE AND THE ASTRO-FORCE IRRADIATED HIM, SHAPED HIM, MADE OF HIM A BEING OF LIVING ENERGY.


HIS SHIP AND HIS ARMOR HE FASHIONED FROM THE EGO-MASS, HIS FORM FROM THE GIANTS ONCE BOUND THERE.
ONCE CALLED THORION, THE RESURRECTED ONE, GOD OF THUNDER, HE WOULD FOREVERMORE BE KNOWN AS...
...THE CELESTIAL.

THE SOURCE STRIKES!

Dear Editor:

Journey Into Forever #82 was the perfect recipe for a tantalizing tale of Thorion and the New Asgods!

We start off in awe as we witness the wonder of the throne room of Odin the Highfather. But we are quickly thrown into the midst of battle as the Asgodian warriors must stave off a threat from Granny Gullin, the Boar God. It stirs the blood to see our Thorion go into battle alongside such heroes as Bald'r Lightbringer and Infinity, the Beta-Ray Man!

Once the battle is won, the grandeur of those scenes is brought home in a compelling way by the contrast with Thorion's life on Earth. Those clashes seem even more dramatic after seeing our Asgodian revert to Don Free, master locksmith, and go about his mundane business with the help of his assistant, Oberon Foster.

I have one request: Please feature more of the "Tales From Supertown!" back-up stories that have run only sporadically so far. I really enjoy that insight into some of the supporting cast in the Asgodian legends, such as Heimron, the formidable warrior standing ever-watching guard at the Rainbow Chair. Let loose your new creative team onto all of writer/artist Jack Lee's creations and let them explore the corners of his mind!

Melissa DeBlieck Jr.
(Address withheld by request)

Letting our guys loose in Jack Lee's brain wouldn't be a pretty sight, Melissa, but we know what you mean. We hope you liked the all-out battle scenes this month as Kicky Kieth and Jazzy Johnny Junior let us take a peek at the other side of Ragnarok! We thought it was the perfect way to kick off the incredible first issue of Thorion's own title. We didn't have room to squeeze in much of Don Free's professional life, but that's only because we wanted to save a big dollop of it for next time!

Dear Thorion Chroniclers:

I've been reading your Amalgam books since you first started, lo those many years ago, and the legendary scope you bring to Journey Into Forever has long made it my favorite.

There's good contrast in the villains that come to menace our hero, balancing mythic scope with (literally) down-to-Earth danger. It just screams, "Amalgam!" Nobody does it like you guys!

With that in mind, I would like to see the return of several past villains, who seemed to be defeated only by the most random of circumstances. Foremost on my list would be those fearsome brothers, Kalibak & Hyde. Having the potion that turns them into such fierce menaces run out just as Thorion was about to be defeated just isn't fair! Give them another chance to challenge our Asgodian champion when they're at their best.

Another one I'd love to see return is the Absorbing Bug. His ability to ingest any material and split into dozens of little creatures with those properties makes him a difficult villain to corral! Also on my list would be the fierce woman who in her only appearance fought Thorion to a draw: Steppenorn, the wolf queen!

Please consider my requests. Bringing back these villains would make Journey Into Forever even greater than it already is!

Olav Sperling
Flushing, The Netherlands

While we agree that Journey Into Forever was a great comic, Olav, we hope you like our cast even more now that they've been given their own title to play with! We've got lots of plans for upcoming months, including one of the villains you request! So stay tuned!

Dear Editors:

Please settle a bet I have with my friend. I say that in an all-out battle, Thorion would beat Super-Soldier. My favorite magazine, Fanzard, says Thorion comes out on top. What say you?

Uncle Elvis Marchese
Clark, KY

We say we hope we never have to find out, Unk! Both heroes are known for talking first and hitting later, so ideally they would figure out they were on the same side before going at it hammer and shield! If one of them was being mind-controlled by an outside force, as Devilance the Storm Giant did that time with Thorion, it no doubt would weaken that hero's willpower enough that the other hero would emerge victorious! How's that for Another Ambitious Amalgam Alibi?

Dear Editor:

I love the new creative team on Thorion! They've picked up on ideas creator Jack Lee barely touched on before moving onto other areas, and it makes perfect sense to go back and revisit some of these classic events to find the deeper meanings.

I have a few questions for you:

1. Will Thorion ever get his own book?

2. Will we see the Enchanted Tigra again? Such a strong counterpoint to Thanoseid shouldn't just be left as a stone statue out on the plains of Yggdrasill!

3. In this year's Journey Into Forever Annual, please reprint two of my favorite stories: "O' Deadly Thanoseid!" and "If This Be The Pact!" They're critical to the origin of Thorion and haven't been seen since their first appearance many years ago!

4. Will the Un-People ever make a guest appearance? They seem like the ideal team to fight alongside the New Asgodians! My favorites are Vykin the Black Bolt and Medusa Moonrider, so even if you can't fit in the rest, let those two show up. They could even have their own back-up feature!

5. If the Un-People do appear, please leave Triserinak at home! Whoever added a karate-chopping, aquatic cowboy to such a great team should be stoned!

Sorry to be so harsh, but the Un-People are some of my favorite characters, and I hate to see them weakened by a teammate who turns them into a laughingstock. It's just not the Amalgam way! Thanks for listening!

Mark Haden Ahlquist

You're welcome, Mark! We hope you like our answers as much as we liked your questions:

1. You got it! Amalgam Awards Allegiance Already!

2. The Enchanted Tigra has lost the affection of Thanoseid, it appears, and he's moved onto a new babe who looks a little like death warmed over. But as our esteemed (steamed?) leader, M.M. Carwald, keeps reminding us, we never say never to the Astonishing Amalgam Assemblage. So keep reading!

3. Those are great stories, and we've got them on our list, perhaps for our next Strange Origins Annual. But we don't think you'll be disappointed by the two Demand Masterpieces appearing in this year's first-ever Thorion Annual. The first is "To Die Like A New Asgodian!," presenting Thorion's first meeting with the avatar of death, the Silver Racer! It'll be coupled with "Behold—The Living Doomed Dominion," the first appearance of Oa, the Living Planet! For a quick glimpse of Oa today, check out Iron Lantern #1, on sale this week!

4. We're big fans of The Un-People, so it's probably only a matter of time before there's an appearance by some of your favorites, if not the whole blamed team! We can't promise a back-up feature, but check out the all-new Challengers of the Fantastic #1, on sale this week, which features a cameo appearance by the Un-People. It could be the start of something big!

5. We admit that Triserinak may be pushing things. But at least we're not timid when it comes to creating new characters! Just one more example of how willing we are to go right over the edge in trying to create the kind of comics you want to read! So have mercy, mellow ones!

NEXT ISSUE: You won't want to miss this Big Battle issue! Thorion, Bald'r Lightbringer, and the warrior realm of the New Asgodians try to defeat L'ok D'saad and his evil hosts once and for all! Plus, we flash back to the early days of Thorion's life to see how he met the love of his life, Big Sif! Until next time, sit up straight, For-

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